

Ninox owls (and many non-raptors). The story is complex and evolving, but Jerry makes some key points. Raptors are special because their talons and hooked bills allow only single prey items to be carried (in contrast to thrushes with multiple worms or puffins with multiple fish): this limits the use raptors can make of abundant small prey such as insects. Vertebrate animals actively hide from predators, and hunting them involves risks (e.g. collisions with trees or vehicles). Hence it is useful for the main provider (usually male) to be small and agile. *Ninox* owls are different because the smaller species often take invertebrates (albeit singly) and the larger species may store prey species in their talons until the next day.

There are some surprising omissions. Jerry emphasises the inability of falcons to build their own nest structures, but does not mention the recent molecular work, that aligns falcons taxonomically with parrots not hawks. Square-tailed Kites get no mention, despite being one

of the few raptor species that feed mainly in forests and dense woodlands (albeit mainly in the lowlands, as for other raptors), and sometimes nest >600 m in this region where forests are a key habitat. The chapter on conservation is brief and excessively focused on Canberra. It mentions umbrella species (with a single overseas reference and a naïve comment about its value), but not our successful use of the concept in Victoria to protect 350 000 ha of forest specially selected for forest owls and the ecosystems on which they depend.

Nevertheless, this book serves a useful purpose and will be enjoyed for its questioning and challenging approach, valuable information summaries, the way it links information from Australia and overseas, and Jerry's evident humour and passion for the subject.

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Camera Trapping: Wildlife Management and Research

Principal Editors: Paul Meek and Peter Flemming

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This large volume is essentially a collection of 32 scientific papers written from presentations delivered at a camera trapping symposium that took place in Sydney in 2012. Camera trapping is a burgeoning technique replacing many other traditional wildlife survey methods, hence the need for the colloquium. This book is organised into five parts, each covering different aspects of camera trapping as a tool for the wildlife researcher.

If anyone or any organisation uses or intends to use camera traps as a survey tool, this is a useful volume as it covers all the information needed to carry out a successful camera trapping survey. That said, the book is not laid out

as a field manual, but rather as a reference into which a camera trapper may delve to ascertain hints, tricks and techniques that have been successfully, or indeed unsuccessfully, used by researchers from around Australia and beyond.

The book opens with a preface followed by an introduction from the principal editors in which the reasoning for holding the camera trapping symposium (the first of its kind) are explained. It describes how wildlife researchers and managers have been installing cameras frequently with no real forethought or strategy, in the hope of answering all their wildlife issues. Camera trapping is, of course, no panacea in understanding wildlife ecology and the editors

are keen to point this out. The complexities and constraints are brought to light within the introduction.

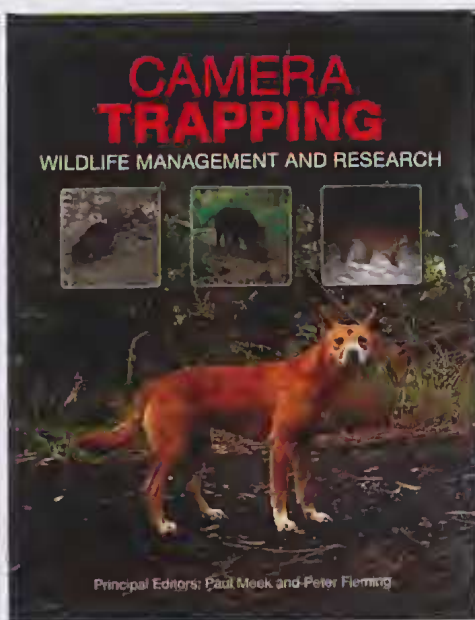
Part one consists of 10 papers presented on multiple topics concerning aspects of camera trapping under the guise of case studies. Whilst these are interesting, there is no real logical format from which to gain practical advice. The fact that this book is a collection of independent presentations is quickly made apparent as there is frequent repetition. However, if camera trappers are prepared to read these case studies, they will undoubtedly pick up some knowledge for using their traps. It is nice to see, and indeed interesting to read, that many of the case studies are from other regions around the world including Mongolia and Bhutan.

Part two deals with the technology used within camera trapping. It is a collection of seven papers and a very useful part of the book. It describes other researchers' camera trap installations, the snags they have hit along the way, how these were overcome and general insights into the best ways of using camera traps. This information is what many readers of this book will be hoping to find.

The middle of the book contains a collection of colour plates relating to some of the papers in the book. Whilst some of these images are nice to view, only a handful of them are genuinely useful as colour plates. Many would have been adequately presented alongside the text within the body of the relevant paper as other diagrams and plates are throughout the book.

Part three is probably the core of the book. It deals with techniques, protocols and comparisons in setting up your camera trap study. It defines realistic expectations of the type and quality of data that can be collected. Whilst every study may be slightly different, there is no point in re-inventing the wheel and this chapter provides the camera trap user with some useful knowledge in designing a meaningful study.

Part four deals with how to manage and analyse your data. Much of this will be of use only to those with multiple camera traps available to sample an area. This may be of more value to research and academic institutions with multi-



ple data sets requiring analysis, than most community groups or casual naturalists. However, the final paper in this section, on privacy law in Australia, will be of assistance to all users!

The final part comprises a single paper written by all the editors involved in collating the book. This conclusion usefully attempts to sum up all the issues related to camera traps, as well as laying out a future in standardising techniques and forming a registry of camera trap research.

If you are considering undertaking a camera trap study, this book will provide a useful reference text. It is not however, a 'go to' manual, and will require some perusal before the best information can be gathered from it. There is some repetition in this book, but this is a product of it being a collection of presentations written up as papers. Overall, a very useful book.

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